

**IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
FOR THE DISTRICT OF MONTANA  
MISSOULA DIVISION**

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,

Plaintiff,

vs.

CR 08-69-M-DWM

**FILED**

APR 07 2009

By PATRICK E. DUFFY, CLERK  
DEPUTY CLERK, MISSOULA

**FINDINGS & RECOMMENDATION  
CONCERNING PLEA**

EPIFANIO ZUNIGA,

Defendant.

The Defendant, by consent, has appeared before me under Fed. R. Crim. P. 11 and has entered a plea of guilty to one count of possession with intent to distribute methamphetamine in violation of 21 U.S.C. § 841(a)(1), as set forth in the Indictment.

After examining the Defendant under oath, I have made the following determinations:

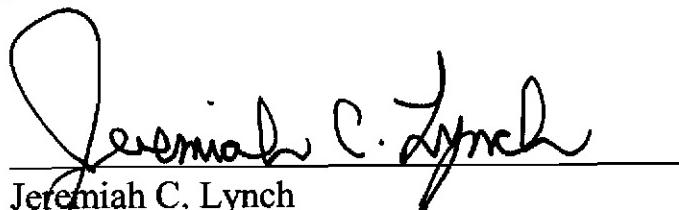
1. That the Defendant is fully competent and capable of entering an informed and voluntary plea,
2. That the Defendant is aware of the nature of the charge against him and consequences of pleading guilty to the charge,

3. That the Defendant fully understands his constitutional rights, and the extent to which he is waiving those rights, by pleading guilty, and,
4. That the plea of guilty is a knowing and voluntary plea, supported by an independent basis in fact sufficient to prove each of the essential elements of the offense charged.

The Court further concludes that the Defendant had adequate time to review the Plea Agreement with counsel, that he fully understands each and every provision of the agreement and that all of the statements in the Plea Agreement are true. Therefore, I recommend that the Defendant be adjudged guilty of the charge set forth in the Indictment, and that sentence be imposed.<sup>1</sup>

**This report is forwarded with the recommendation that the Court defer a decision regarding acceptance until the Court has reviewed the Plea Agreement and the presentence report.**

DATED this 7<sup>th</sup> day of April, 2009.



\_\_\_\_\_  
Jeremiah C. Lynch  
United States Magistrate Judge

---

<sup>1</sup> Objections to these Findings and Recommendation are waived unless filed and served within ten (10) days. 28 U.S.C. § 636(b)(1)(B); Fed. R. Crim. P. 59(b)(2).